

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) National Grantee Webinar

*VA Targeted Strategies for 30-Day Surge to End
Veteran Homelessness, PIT/HIC Tool for SSVF
Grantees, Grantee Reporting Updates &
Grantee Orientation Guide*

January 12, 2017

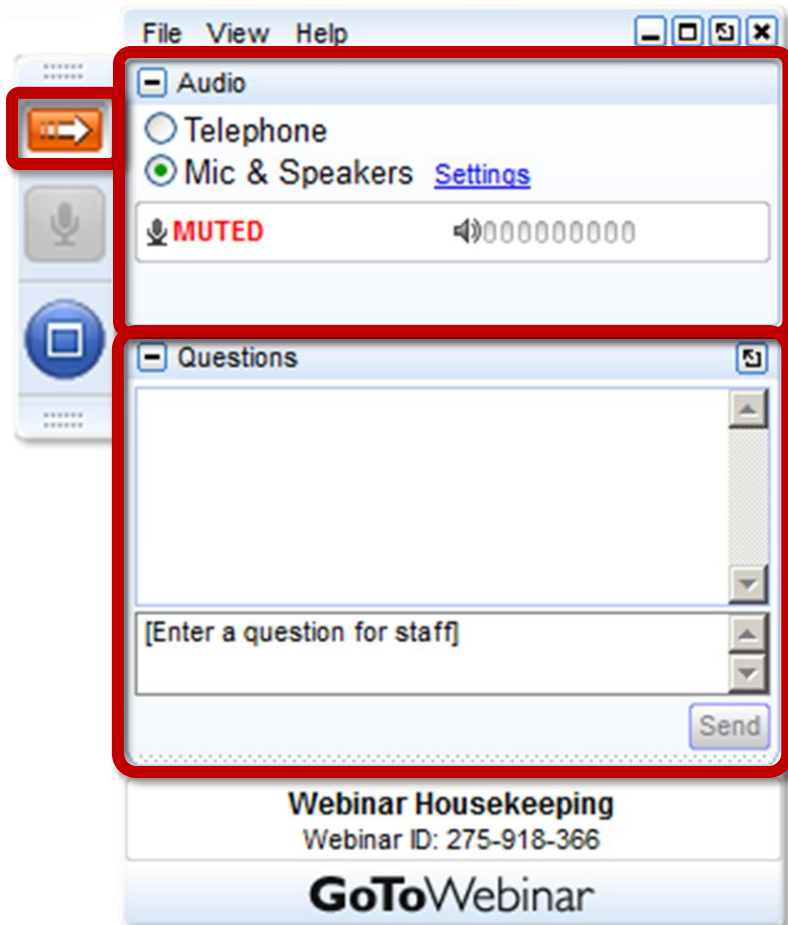
Audio Version:

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3
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Webinar Format

- Webinar will last approximately 1.5 hours
- Participants' phone connections are “muted” due to the high number of callers
 - **Questions can be submitted during the webinar using the Q&A function**
- Questions can also be submitted anytime to [SSVF@va.gov](mailto:ssvf@va.gov)

Questions

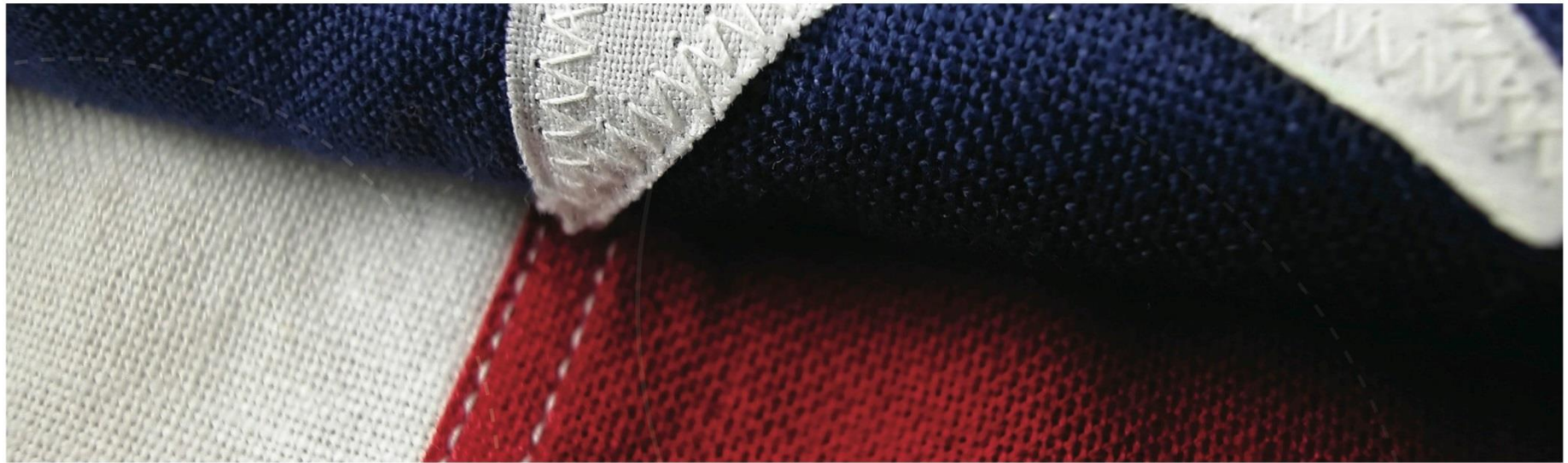


Your Questions

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

Presenters & Agenda

- **Targeted Strategies for 30-Day Surge to End Veteran Homelessness**
 - John Kuhn, National Director, SSVF
- **PIT/HIC Tool for SSVF Grantees**
 - Adrienne Nash Melendez, SSVF Regional Coordinator
- **Grantee Reporting Updates**
 - Linda Southcott, Deputy Director, SSVF
- **Updated Grantee Orientation Guide**
 - Jill Albanese, SSVF Supervisory Regional Coordinator
- **Q&A**



VHA Homeless Programs: SSVF

Targeted Strategies for 30-Day Surge to End Veteran Homelessness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SnAK6MVqmk>

John Kuhn, National Director, SSVF



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Targeted Strategies for 30-Day Surge

- Continued emphasis on rapid re-housing
- Short term focus on those currently in GPD or enrolled, but not yet placed through HUD-VASH
- Attach services to your PIT so that unsheltered homeless Veterans can immediately be placed into emergency shelter

Ongoing Work

Continue to work with community partners to develop a system of care that will allow you reduce homelessness and sustain these gains.

- **Coordinated Entry,**
- **By-Name Lists,**
- **Case Conferencing,**
- **Assess progress in meeting Federal Criteria and Benchmarks.**



VHA Homeless Programs: SSVF

Point-In-Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

Overview



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Progress to Date

EXHIBIT 5.1: PIT Estimates of
Homeless Veterans
By Sheltered Status, 2009–2016



- From 2015 to 2016, there were 8,254 fewer Veterans counted, a 17% drop.
- This was the largest one-year drop since HUD began counting Veterans in the PIT Count.
- These next two weeks are intended to surge efforts and permanently house Veterans using VA and community resources.

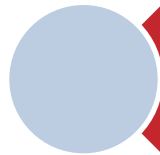
Source: HUD AHAR Part 1: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

VA Strategy with the 2017 PIT and HIC

Goal: Ensure that Every Veteran has a Place to Call Home



Strategy Implementation Examples



Increase Permanent Housing Rates

- Continue to emphasize the importance of RRH over prevention
- Prioritize placements that can be done quickly, such as moves out of GPD or HUD-VASH support
- Peer Learning/Field Practices
 - Landlord Engagement Strategies
 - Housing Boot Camps to Identify Barriers to Accessing Housing Quickly
 - Using Stand Downs and Housing Blitzes
 - Operation Reveille
 - Work with shelters to identify list of veterans, have staff enroll them before they leave the shelter so SSVF serves as navigator

Strategy Implementation Examples



Targeting Services

- Establish links and plans to Veterans have immediate access to shelter
- Mini PIT Count blasts



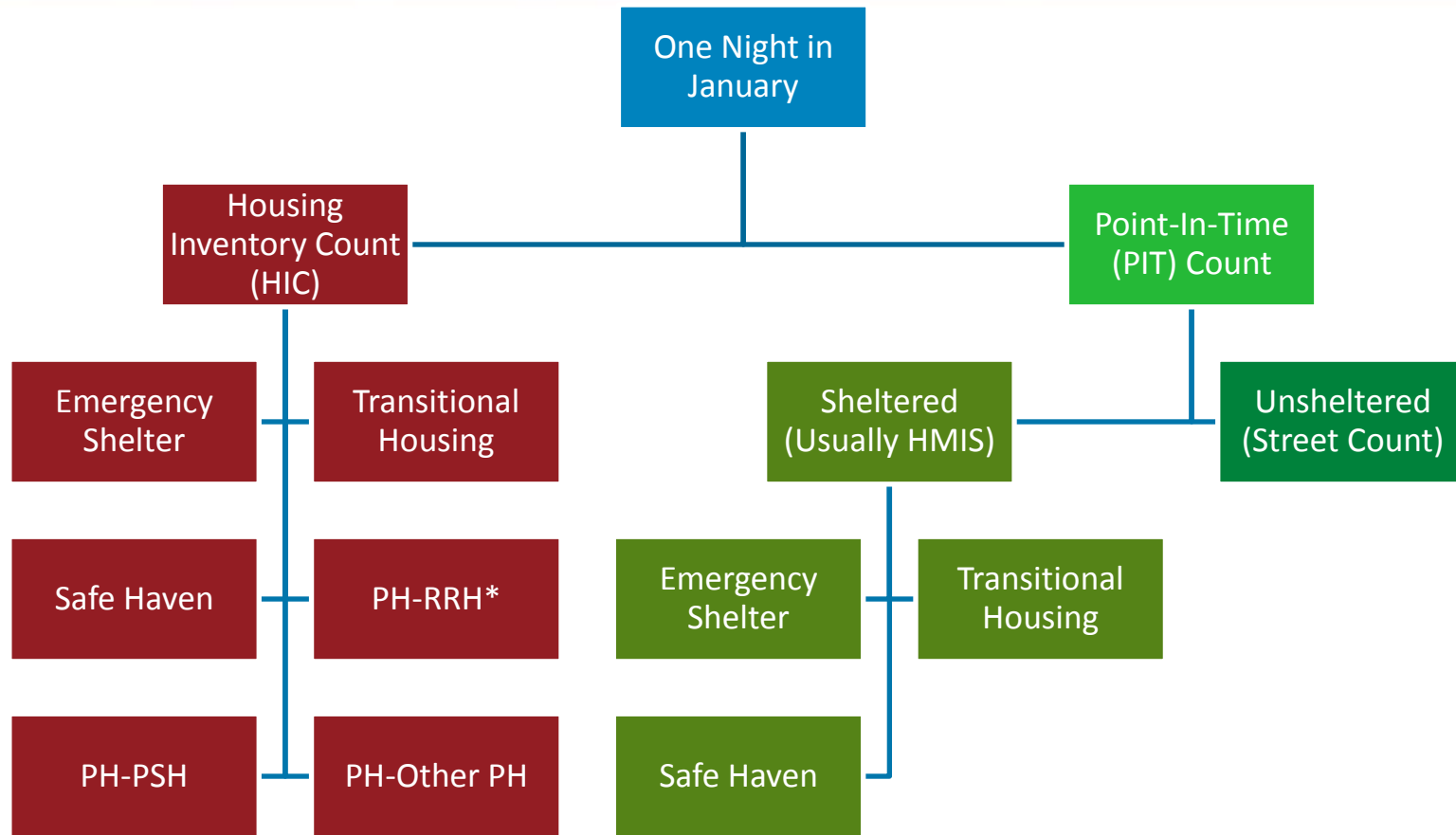
Engage Communities

- Bringing partners to the table
- Helping to fill gaps/need

SSVF Participation and Commitment to Sustainable Systems

- All Grantees are expected to be involved with the PIT and HIC efforts in the CoCs that they serve.
- Think about how your PIT/HIC plan as a community connects to the 4 strategies.
- **Commitment to Sustainable Systems**
 - Our emphasis is still and will always be on building sustainable systems, and our focus is to use these shorter-term strategies to spark innovation while communities continue to pursue the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks.
 - We could not do this work without partners, and it has been our priority to message this to the field.

PIT and HIC



Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

- **What is the HIC?**

- Point-in-time inventory of projects within the CoC that provide **beds and units** *dedicated to serving persons who are homeless*.
- Provides HUD and CoCs with information about the shelter and housing capacity of homeless crisis response systems.
- Link to HIC Reports: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/>

**What SSVF RRH Households
(and Corresponding
Units/Beds) are included in
the HIC?**

Enrolled in SSVF
RRH on night of
the HIC, AND

Are in permanent
housing (but not
PSH or GPD TIP)

HIC Data Elements

- **SSVF RRH HIC Information (for Each Household That Meeting the Previous Criteria):**
 - Size of Household
 - Number of Veterans in household
 - Number of Adults in Household
 - Number of Children in Household
 - Apartment Unit Size (SRO, Efficiency, 1 Bedroom, 2 Bedrooms, etc.)
 - Number of Beds (Ex. 6 people, 6 beds)
 - Location of Apartment (CoC where reside)
- This information should primarily come from HMIS. However, grantees should verify the information particularly if they do not directly enter into a CoC's HMIS system and instead engage in exporting and importing their data to the CoC's HMIS.

Other Notes

- **Co-Enrollment and Reporting Beds/Units for the HIC**
 - HIC beds can only be reported once, even if funding for the housing and services are from multiple sources that may be associated with different project types.
 - For example, when SSVF funds are provided to pay for a security deposit for a household who is served in HUD-VASH, the bed/unit inventory is only reported in the HIC under the PSH (HUD-VASH).
- **GPD Transition in Place**
 - We realize that many of our SSVF grantees also operate GPD programs.
 - In the past, TIP has been counted as transitional housing. This year, it will fall under the category, “Other Permanent Housing” for purposes of the HIC.
 - **TIP will not be included in the CoC’s sheltered PIT count.**

Point in Time Count (PIT)

**What SSVF RRH
Households are included
in the PIT?**

Enrolled in SSVF RRH on night of
the PIT, **AND**

Are sheltered (emergency shelter,
transitional housing, etc.) and have
not moved into PH (included in PIT
sheltered count), **OR**

Are unsheltered (street, place not
meant for human habitation, etc.) and
have not moved into PH (included in
PIT unsheltered count)

Note: In most cases, Veterans experiencing literal homelessness will already be included in the sheltered count if they are in emergency shelter or transitional housing. SSVF grantees do not need to report this information if it is already collected by the CoC. SSVF grantees can help with the unsheltered count reporting if they know of an unsheltered Veteran whose location is not known to the CoC.

Rural, Balance of States, and Other Considerations

- Large territories/geography
- Capacity issues and needs
- Colder weather/warmer weather
- Immediate shelter when shelter is not available
- Connection to agencies like VFWs, American Legions, local schools, universities, civic groups especially in filling gaps
- Value of peers
- Using technology and innovation
- Safety
- Overall connection to community planning

PIT and HIC Resources

Messaging

- **VA News Release** - <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2851>
- **Blog post by Secretary McDonald** - <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/34111/ending-veterans-homelessness-heres-how-you-can-help/>
- **Web Video by Secretary McDonald** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SnAK6MVqmk>

Tools

- **2017 PIT and HIC Summary for SSVF Grantees**
http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/ssvf_university/community_coordination_and_plans
- **2017 HUD Housing Inventory Count and Point-In-Time Count Guidance (August 2016)** <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/#2017-pit-and-hic-reporting>



VHA Homeless Programs: SSVF Grantee Reporting Updates



Grantee Reporting Updates

Modifications to Online Quarterly Certification Requirement (GIFTS)

Includes existing areas of compliance certification (Final Rule).

DATA QUALITY:

- Adds grantee certification related to Client Participation Survey enrollment
- Modified question for grantee certification of monthly data quality review, based on available reports. VA is unable to provide monthly quality reports.
 - Grantees are expected to conduct internal reviews of aggregate reports that are available to them.
- Adds certification that HP Threshold scores are entered in HMIS for all prevention clients.

TRAININGS & WEBINARS:

- Adds certification that all program staff have completed the Grantee Orientation trainings.
- Adds certification that all fiscal staff have completed at least once within a 12-month period the webinar: *Audit Guidelines, Fraud Prevention, Reporting, and Compliance*.

Grantee Reporting Updates

Modifications to Online Quarterly Certification Requirement (GIFTS)

EXPENDITURES & HHS SUBACCOUNT DRAWDOWNS

- Adds question related to spending rates within allowable limitations
 - NOTE: Current Q1 certification form requires a reference to spending and drawdown limitations per NOFA
 - Projected spending rates are Q1=35%, Q2=60%, Q3=85%
 - Q2 certification form will include this revision.
- Adds question related to interest in voluntarily returning grant funds to VA (Yes/No)
 - NOTE: The minimum spending rates per quarter, per VA grant agreement are Q1=15%, Q2=40%, Q3=65%
 - This option to voluntarily return funds will only be available in Q2 or Q3 certification (not Q4)

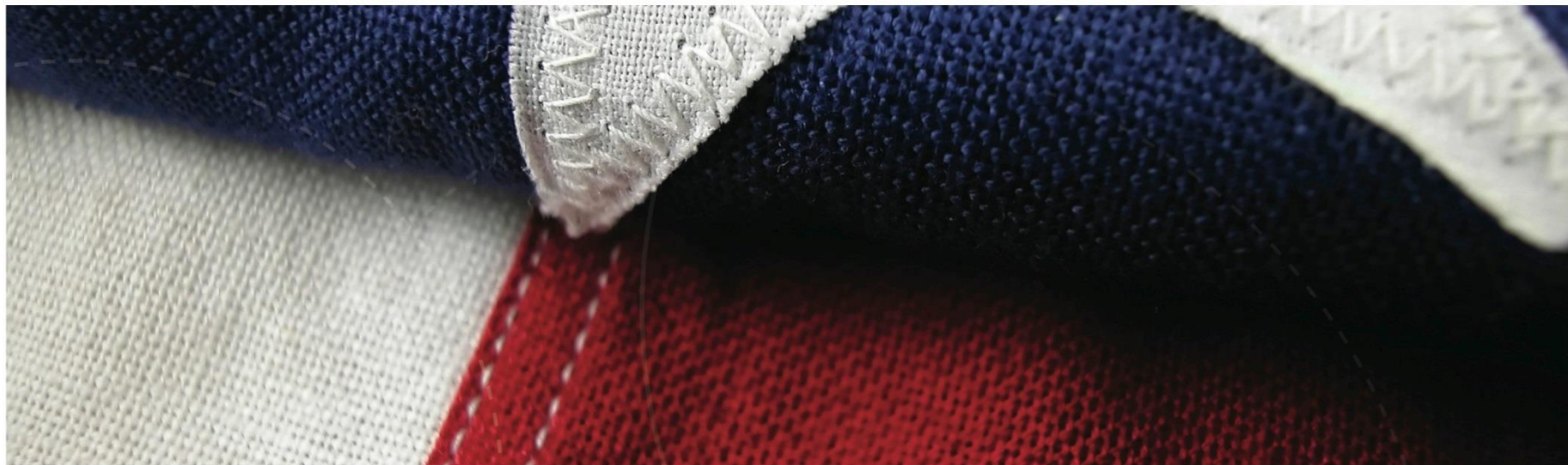
Grantee Reporting Updates

Modifications to Online Program Change Requests (GIFTS)

Process includes standard form used in prior FY.

- For FY 2017 the only notable change is that monetary amounts entered for a budget change have been modified to reflect subaccounts in the HHS Payment Management System (Administrative, Services, and Temporary Financial Assistance).
- Refer to companion guide: provides an overview of process and submission deadlines; defines the various types of program changes; and provides instructions for completing the online form.

Quarter	Submission Deadline for Grantees	Response Deadline from Program Office
2	March 1, 2017	March 31, 2017
3	June 1, 2017	June 30, 2017
4	August 15, 2017 September 1, 2017	September 1, 2017 September 29, 2017



VHA Homeless Programs: SSVF Updated Grantee Orientation Guide



Updated Grantee Orientation Guide

- ✦ **Required Material for New SSVF Staff to Read and Watch** ✦

Below is a reference list for foundational, required reading and broadcasts for all new program staff.

Introduction Materials

- [SSVF Definitions of Key Terms](#)
- [SSVF Program Description](#)
- [SSVF Introduction Video](#)
- [Core Concepts and Program Design Elements](#)
- [SSVF Core Concepts](#)
 - [Housing First Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Housing First Checklist](#)

- Required materials with links to SSVF and Partner websites marked with ✦
- Basic overview of SSVF requirements
- Use for onboarding new SSVF program staff
- Certify all new staff have reviewed on quarterly certification

Updated Grantee Orientation Guide

Recommended Basic Resources for the Provision of SSVF Supportive Services

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- [Trauma-Informed Care Video \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Care Video \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Outreach, Engagement and Admission Webinar](#)
- [Targeting, Screening and Assessment Webinar](#)
- [Homelessness Prevention Targeting 2016 Webinar](#)
- [Rapid Re-housing Basics](#)
- [Assessment and Housing Plans Webinar](#)
- [Progressive Engagement in SSVF Webinar](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Overview](#)

- Recommended materials for more thorough understanding of SSVF philosophy and program implementation strategies
- Access to SSVF materials and SSVF related resources included in this section of the guide and in hyperlinks throughout document
- New staff read recommended materials, as part of onboarding

Updated Grantee Orientation Guide

DOCUMENT	DESCRIPTION
New Grantee Program Start-up Checklist	Checklist of considerations and requirements involved in setting up an SSVF Program. https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_New_Grantee_Program_Start_up_Checklist.pdf
Grant Administration and Program Compliance Checklist	Checklist of considerations and requirements when administering your SSVF grant and ensuring it meets all grant compliance requirements. https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_Grant_Admin_and_Pgm_Compliance_Checklist.pdf
Training and On-Boarding Guide for SSVF Programs	Summary of some of the training and supervision activities that can be undertaken by one person or be divided among several staff. https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_Training_and_On_Boarding_Guide.pdf

- Toolkits to assist grantees in developing and improving programs
- Topics assist SSVF grantees in meeting program requirements
- Checklists to assist grantees with Compliance and Grant Administration

Updated Grantee Orientation Guide

- Using the Guide
 - New SSVF staff read guide in entirety
 - SSVF Program Supervisors and new SSVF Staff discuss each section of the guide
 - SSVF Program Supervisors document completion
 - Certify that all new staff have reviewed guide and materials
 - Ensure that staff are aware of additional resources
 - Guide is not exhaustive
 - Program guide and SSVF Website and University

Q& A

Additional Questions?

Email:

ssvf@va.gov

Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp

Includes link to ***SSVF University***